

What is claimed is:

1. An aortic cannula having a porous flexible material forming an enclosure about the terminus of the aortic cannula, the material provides a substantially greater area through which flow passes than the cross-sectional area of the lumen at the
5 terminus of the cannula.
2. The aortic cannula of claim 1, the porous flexible material having interstices of sufficient resistance to flow that flow through the porous flexible material is substantially dispersed through the full area of the porous flexible material.
3. The aortic cannula of claim 1, the porous flexible material being knitted
10 wire.
4. The aortic cannula of claim 3, the wire being about 16 to 26 french.
5. The aortic cannula of claim 4, the knitted wire being nitinol wire.
6. The aortic cannula of claim 3, the wire being nitinol about .0005 to .0050 inches in diameter.
- 15 7. The aortic cannula of claim 1, the enclosure being made from polymer fabric.
8. An aortic cannula having a porous flexible material forming an enclosure about the terminus of the aortic cannula, the porous flexible material being knitted nitinol wire, the porous flexible material providing a substantially greater area through which
20 flow passes than the cross-sectional area of the lumen at the terminus of the cannula and having interstices of sufficient resistance to flow that flow through the porous flexible material is substantially dispersed through the full area of the porous flexible material.

9. The aortic cannula of claim 8, the wire being about .0005 to .0050 inches in diameter.